



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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CAMPAIGN '99: BATTLELINES DRAWN FOR JUNE 8TH CIVIL WAR OVER LOS ANGELES CHARTER REFORM.

Editor's note: Back on Mar. 2nd the L.A. City Council voted 13-0 to put a unified Charter Reform plan before voters on June 8th. **Calpeek** did its first update on Mar. 15th. Here's another update with new polling data...

...Most L.A. City voters won't even cast ballots in this important June 8th election. Because of voter apathy, some sources say fewer than **20%** are expected to vote on whether to modernize the city's 75-year-old charter. And according to a recent *L.A. Times* survey, only a handful know anything about this new plan. The LAT poll showed that **45%** would vote YES, **23%** NO, with the rest undecided. The most support for charter reform is on the affluent Westside: **57% YES vs. 16% NO**. The overall numbers are *not* great, but then only a majority vote is required to approve charter reform...

...In addition to charter reform, there will be *two ballot measures* to increase the size of the city council. One measure will increase the 15-member council to **21** and the other one will boost it to **25**. Voters don't know much about these measures either and there is *no* formal campaign to promote council expansion...

...Charter reform is the *baby* of L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan, who sees it as the best way to put the brakes to the growing movement to break the San Fernando Valley away from L.A. About **60%** of those living in the Valley favor secession. Valley hardliners who favor a split *aren't* likely to be swayed by Riordan's message that charter reform will bring government closer to Valley residents and taxpayers. The only way to do that is to increase the size of the council and the cost for that may run as much as **\$1 million** per extra council seat; which is why insiders are betting that both expansion plans are *DOA*...

...Riordan's team, *Coalition for Charter Reform*, has hired consultant Bill Carrick to do media/tv; and veteran Alice Borden will do fundraising. Sources believe a war chest of at least **\$1 million** must be raised if Riordan's team is to have any sort of chance, because there is *strong opposition*...

...Seven of the 15 member council are against charter reform: Goldberg, Holden, Bernson, Galanter, Walters and Alatorre, with Councilman Rudy Svorinich leading the charge. The formal opposition committee is called *L.A. Taxpayers for Good Govt.* Campaign consultants Tom Shortridge and Steve Afriat have been hired. And LATGG's legal team of Strumwasser & Woocher recently won a battle with the YES side over the wording of the ballot argument. The YES side said charter reform *will* save taxpayer money. The legislative analyst said it *may* save money. It probably seems like a small point, but elections are won and lost on such things. Stay tuned...

FULL METAL JACKET: SCHOOL TRAGEDY SPARKS NEW EFFORTS FOR U.S. AND CALIF. GUN CONTROL.

Editor's note: The tragic events which unfolded April 20th in Littleton, CO, have prompted a renewed effort to enact new **gun control laws** in both Washington DC and Sacramento. Here's our update & analysis...

...President Bill Clinton wants Congress to enact his *Gun Enforcement & Accountability Act*, which would hold parents accountable for the actions of their kids, reinstate the background checks on all gun sales and require buyers at gun shows to go through a background check. U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) was at Pres. Clinton's Apr. 27th news conference and spoke about her bill, S 594, which bans the importation of *large capacity ammo magazines* for semi-automatic weapons. DiFi carried this 10-bullet per magazine bill

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last year, but it only got 44 votes...

...Here in Calif., it's expected that Gov. Gray Davis(D) will sign a number of new gun bills once they reach his desk. But it should be remembered that since 1993, the use of guns in violent crimes in Calif. has dropped dramatically. While some laws have helped to choke off the supply of guns to criminals, the major reason for the drop in violent crimes with guns is due to **3-Strikes**, the **10-20-Life Law** and the requirement that violent offenders serve **85%** of their sentences...

High Profile Gun Bills

☑ Gov. Davis has reaffirmed his support for SB 23 by State Sen. Don Perata(D-Oakland). This **assault weapons** update law bans "copycat" weapons via generic definition and bans the manufacturing & sale of large capacity ammo magazines. The TEC-DC/9, used in the Littleton shooting is now legal in Calif., but under SB 23 it would be banned. The next hearing for SB 23 is May 10th in the Senate Appropriations Cmt...

☑ Another high profile bill is SB 15 by State Sen. Richard Polanco(D-L.A.). This is the bill which bans **cheap handguns**. It's on the Senate floor now and could come up at any time...

Other Gun Bills to Watch

☑ AB 202 by Assemblyman Wally Knox(D-L.A.) is known as the "Handgun a Month Law" and it recently passed the Assembly. Some cities, notably L.A., have passed such laws and it only made sense to have a uniform statewide law. AB 202 is patterned after Maryland's law which is aimed at stopping bulk sales of handguns to the criminal market. Knox carried a similar bill in '97, but it did not get the required votes. This time around, Knox benefited from legit gun dealers, who had other fish to fry. These gun dealers are primarily interested in passage of SB 29 by State Sen. Steve Peace(D-El Cajon) and AB 988 by Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal(D-Long Beach)...

...SB 29 is a technical bill which will help the CA DOJ to upgrade its computer system for faster and more complete handgun registration, while AB 988 stops local governments from issuing licenses to individuals who want to sell guns out of their homes. Both bills are still on track, but there was a minor screw-up be-

cause AB 988 was supposed to have been voted on at the same time as AB 202. That didn't happen because the Assembly Demo Leadership got all fouled up...

☑ Keep your eyes on AB 295 by Assemblywoman Ellen Corbett(D-San Leandro). This bill places tighter controls on gun shows...

☑ Another bill to watch is AB 1097 by Assemblywoman Gloria Romero(D-L.A.). This bill creates a **gun law enforcement unit** within AG Bill Lockyer's DOJ. This unit will enforce, assist and educate local police and DAs about Calif. gun laws already on the books. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE RACES.
Editor's note: Here's another update on key legislative races for 2000...

☒ **16th AD** – Former Oakland Mayor/Assemblyman Elihu Harris(D) told the *S.F. Chron* that he is giving serious consideration to another run at the 16th AD next year against incumbent Green Party Assemblywoman Audie Bock of Oakland...

☒ **43rd AD** – Two Democrats have begun serious exploring for Demo Assemblyman Scott Wildman's 43rd AD seat. They are Dorio Fromer, a former top aide to CDP Chair Art Torres and who now works as Gov. Davis' Appointment Secretary; and Paul Kerkorian, who is an entertainment attorney and Demo party activist/fundraiser...

☒ **44th AD** – Demo Barry Gordon, who was defeated by U.S. Rep. James Rogan(R) last year, is said to be looking at Demo Assemblyman Jack Scott's seat, assuming that Scott runs for Sen. Adam Schiff's soon to be open 21st SD seat. Two other Demo names have surfaced: Evelyn Fierro, a former So. Pasadena councilwoman; and former NWPC/Pasadena co-chair Diana Peterson-More. As for the GOP, we mentioned some of them last week: Pasadena Councilwoman Ann-Marie Villicana and Burbank Councilman Bill Wiggins. And possibly add former So. Pasadena Councilman Robert Wagner to the list, **not** as a GOPer, but as an *independent*...

☒ **45th AD** – This AD belongs to Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa(D) who is *termed out*. It's a solid

Demo AD, meaning the GOP need not apply. Several names have surfaced: AIDS activist Cesar Portillo, Demo activist Tony del la Rosa, UFCW leader John Perez and L.A. Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg...

☒ **74th AD** – In northern San Diego Co., sources say conservative newspaper columnist Mason Weaver is taking a serious look at Howard Kaloogian's seat...

☒ **79th AD** – Add Penny Hलगren to the list of GOP candidates looking Steven Baldwin's AD. Stay tuned...

DOES BUDGET SURPLUS MEANS ANOTHER VLF CUT?

Editor's note: As **Calpeek** went to press, the CA State Senate was due to pass its version of the 1999-2000 State budget, which should top out at \$77.5 billion. Here's a brief update...

...There's going to be another big budget surplus in 1999 – at least **\$2-3 billion**. When Gov. Gray Davis (D) took office in January, he was very cautious about what sort of "extra" income might be headed for the State. In Gov. Pete Wilson's last year, the State had a **\$4.2 billion** surplus...

...State Senate Budget Cmt. Chair Steve Peace(D) and Co-Chair Jim Brulte(R) are keenly aware that in order to pass the budget with a 2/3rds vote, you're going to need to sway GOP lawmakers with some kind of tax cuts. Remember the Vehicle License Fees(VLF)? Last year with \$1.4 billion in extra income, the State permanently cut the VLF rate from 2% to 1.5%. With this new revenue projection, the first trigger has been pulled to enact another VLF reduction, down to 1.3%. And **\$500 million** has been earmarked in the Senate's version of the budget reflects this cut...

...FYI: if Brulte has his way, the VLF cut would be in place on Jan. 1st of next year, rather than Jan. 1st of 2001 – as originally scheduled. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: THE RUN FOR THE WHITE HOUSE.

Editor's note: Early polls really don't mean all that much at this time, with the Presidential election still 19 months away. But **Calpeek** has one fairly new survey for you to look at. Here's our report...

...GOP pollster Bob Moore of Moore Information in Portland has run an April 15-17 match of VP Al Gore

against both Texas Gov. George W. Bush & Elizabeth Dole, with an 800 sample size of registered **Calif.** voters. And in both cases, the GOP candidates defeat Gore. Here's how it looks:

	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Gore</u>	AND	<u>Dole</u>	<u>Gore</u>
ALL voters	45%	39%		43%	38%
Men	51%	36%		42%	38%
Women 18-34	23%	60%		36%	40%
Women 35-54	40%	40%		46%	38%
Women 55+	46%	34%		41%	38%
Whites	50%	34%		47%	35%
Hispanics	34%	48%		34%	46%
Blacks	9%	71%		15%	65%
Asians	29%	56%		27%	44%
L.A. tv market	46%	40%		44%	37%
S.F. tv market	35%	44%		36%	41%
San Diego	48%	38%		51%	34%
Sacto tv market	51%	39%		40%	43%

...Bush is pulling 17% of the Demo vote vs. only 9% of the GOP vote for Gore. And Dole gets 19% of the Demo vote in a battle with Gore vs. only 11% of the GOP vote goes to Gore. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '99: EARLY SPRING MUNI ELECTIONS.

Editor's note: Here's another update on early spring municipal elections...

◆ **Santa Monica** – This Westside city held a 2-day election April 24th and 25th and the turnout was **27%**, not bad for special election. The special was held to replace Councilwoman Asha Greenberg, who moved out of the city. Family law attorney Richard Bloom got 53.7%. His nearest rival was Demo activist and planner Susan Cloke, who got 33.5%. Bloom, who narrowly lost a council race last year, was backed by *Santa Monicans for Renters Rights*. In order to insure a good turnout, SMRR put a initiative on the ballot to curb alleged harassment by landlords. The measure got a 71.9% vote. Bloom's campaign and the initiative were run by Parke Skelton & Steve Gray-Barkan of SGA Campaigns...

◆ **L.A. City's 10th District** – Incumbent Councilman Nate Holden didn't go over 50% after all the ballots were finally counted, so he's in a runoff with The Rev. Madison Shockley, who got 20%. Holden immediately won endorsements from 3rd place finisher Scott Suh and

from 4th place finisher Marsha Brown, who spent much of her campaign bashing Holden. Shockley countered with some even better endorsements: Councilmembers Rita Walters, Jackie Goldberg, Mike Feuer and Mark Ridley-Thomas have all endorsed Shockley. FYI: the unnoticed campaign news coming out of Shockley's HQ is that he has parted with consultant Harvey Englander and has hired consultant Parke Skelton to run his June 8th runoff...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are few items, political and otherwise, worth noting...

■ ***Rogan Won't Battle Feinstein*** – No big shock as U.S. Rep. James Rogan(R-Glendale) decided to pass up a shot at running against Demo U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein in 2000. Rogan has not decided yet whether to seek reelection to his 27th CD post --- or perhaps take on L.A. Co. DA Gil Garcetti in 2000. Wouldn't that be an interesting match...

■ ***CRP Names New Spin Doctor*** – His name is Stuart DeVeaux, a 28-year-old who comes to Calif. from the RNC. His previous work experience: Bush-Quayle '92; the Christian Coalition; and Black America's PAC (a PAC which supports anti-abortion candidates). DeVeaux, who is an African-American, starts his new job as CRP Communications Director May 4th. If the conservative hardliners who control the CRP wanted to reach out to mainstream conservatives & moderates, naming another anti-abortion hardliner isn't exactly the *big tent* approach...

■ ***Feds Sell Bell Gardens Casino*** – The U.S. Govt. has sold its controlling interest in the Bicycle Club in Bell Gardens. The feds seized control of the poker club in 1990 when it was discovered that there was money laundering going on at the club. The buyers include Haig Kelegian, Walter Lack and Robert Carter. The trio operates *Ocean's Eleven Casino* in Oceanside. Kelegian is president of the CA Gaming Assn...

■ ***Safer Sex Initiative*** – Only in West Hollywood. Seems that the AIDS Healthcare Foundation wants to put an initiative on the West Hollywood ballot that will require condoms and safer sex materials to be distributed at all WH restaurants and bars. The city already has a voluntary program. Can't you just see the pat-

rons at Spago's, Morton's, Le Dome and other pricey eateries sitting down to dinner with a waiter coming up and saying, "How would you like your condoms: plain end or reservoir tip?" Delightful dinner conversation...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook. We've got a ton of these notes...

● Linda Braunschweiger has been named VP of P/A for Countrywide Home Loans in Calabasas. She was the director of legislation at the CA Housing Finance Agency in the Wilson Admin...

● Political consultant Richard Schlackman, who closed his own agency earlier this year, has joined DC-base direct mail consultants Jim Crounse & Hal Malchow to form Crounse, Malchow & Schlackman...

● CA State Treasurer Phil Angelides has added Cathy Calfo as Deputy Treas. for communications & legislation. Also new to the office are Hugo Lopez as exec. director of the CA Debt & Investment Advisory Commission; and Sumi Sousa as exec. director of the CA Health Facilities Financing Agency...

● Gov. Gray Davis has appointed former federal Judge Bill Norris as a special counsel, working on new gaming compacts with CA's Indian tribes...

● U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer(D-CA) has named Amy Denhart as her San Diego area director. Denhart was a p/a coordinator for Planned Parenthood in SD...

● New promotions at Nelson Communications in Sacto include: Steve Swatt to partner and GM; Bill Schreiber to Sr. VP; and Stephen Kulieke to sr. associate. New hires: Janelle Zobelein and Ashley Snee...

● Gov. Gray Davis has appointed former White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers as a trustee of the CSU system...

● P/A exec. and political consultant Joseph R. Cerrell has been elected president of the Nat'l Italian Amer. Foundation(NIAF). He'll serve until 2002...

● Catherine Tyrrell has been hired as director of environmental affairs at Playa Vista in L.A...